INTERVIEW WITH Miss. CONSTANCE LA MAIDA AND Mr. BENICE CORKHILL

February 2, 1977

Conducted by:

Dr. James L. Dodson

- - and - -

Ms. Paula Boyer

Interview with Miss. Constance La Maida

Dodson: I wonder then if you state your full name for our record and tell us how long you've live in the Valley, Mrs. La Maida?

La Maida: O.K. my name is Constant La Maida and I have lived in the Valley for 44 years. And I would like to comment on the name of my father. My father is Jame V. La Maida [?] who has lived in the Valley for over 40 years. And then my grandfather T.G. La Maida who has lived in the Valley for over 50 years.

Dodson: That's very interesting. Can you tell us where they came from and how they happened to come to the Valley?

La Maida: Well, my grand father was an immigrant from Italy and he came to New York when he was about 12 or 13 years old. Stayed in New York doing kind of odd jobs as a boy and young man. And then I believe that he did stop at other states along the way. Ventured to the Los Angeles area. Oh, maybe before the turn of the century or somewhere right around there and located in the L.A. area for a while. And Oh, there are different kinds of job there. He did own a saloon down in Los Angeles and Oh, started coming out to the Valley, oh about 1910 and actually moved out to the Valley, oh sometime between 1915 and 1919 where he moved to a place on Riverside Dr. which was then called third street. It's a old farm house and from that time started buying land in the Valley. Grape and vineyards, peach orchard, open land on Lankershim, Laurel Canyon, Coldwater Canyon and then over the years expanded into almost every area in the Valley at some point or the other. And my father first, of course he was working with my grandfather throughout these years. And this is the first place that he actually own without Canoga Park. And then later on, of course this was right before the depression years and did loose much of their land at this time and then worked and came back to built their land up then, oh...after the wealth, after the World War II, but then the land of my father main farming was in the Sepulveda Dame Basin, which he farmed about 500 acres there for at least 20 years.

Dodson: Could you tell us what they raise on their farm. What was the principal crop?

La Maida: Oh, well. In the early year of their farming were they did a lot of the plume, the peaches and graph, walnuts. Then they went into the produce farming which included carrots, onions, squashes, cucumbers, cabbage, tomatoes then in the latter years, they are primarily did the alfalfa farming.

Dodson: You mention the effect of the depression. We rather interested in that. What effect did that have on your family?

La Maida: Well my father, my mother, my brother and myself, they had oh about 40 or 50 acres in Canoga Park and actually they lost this land during the depression. And I can't say specifically how much of my grandfather's land was lost. But it was definitely in effect. I mean that was, they had built up a real good business and all of a sudden the crash. That considerable financial effect on loosing certain parts of the land and money lost of course.

Dodson: I suppose the price of the farm products declined to the point that it didn't pay to raise them at that time?

La Maida: Yes, this is very... very true. In fact, I believe during this time that my father even went into at least oh, a part-time worker. Oh, working with cement laying and that kind of thing just to help the situation. But then, they really have the love of the land and farming and that didn't hold them down, so they built themselves right back up.

Dodson: Right, so that was not a permanent loss?

La Maida: No, no. Well actually I would say that out of the 1941 and the 40s because of the World War II. I think there was more of the farming demand there and they were able to prosper again.

Dodson: And then, did they sell the land off for subdivisions after the World?

La Maida: Ah, the land that they owned prior to the depression, they did sold or they might be a small blocks like 50 acres. Then they went into the leasing of the.. of land which they felt was more beneficial to them. And all the land around the Sepulveda Basin was all least from the government.

Dodson: Since we talk about this farming, we have been told the present of the Japanese laborers in the Valley. Did you father, grandfather have any Japanese laborers working on the farms?

La Maida: Yes, we had some but primarily with the Japanese it was more .. he would deal with the top business man that have a group of labors and might have been doing some farming on his own too on the side. And primarily he dealt with the Mexican-American... Mexican nationals.

Boyer: So actually he contracted with somebody just supplying laborers, right.

La Maida: Right.

Boyer: And then who ever could laborers happen to their teen [?] would that work.

La Maida: He had certain crew that the local men that he hired, but the harvest season, naturally, he had to bring in a contracted for many more workers to come in.

Dodson: Did you mention that one of our streets is named for him a while a go?

La Maida: Yes, the street is named for my grandfather T.G. Jessie Corkhill. At first it was just a street that was in North Hollywood. Then with the expansion of the Valley, you see the street clear out into Encino and it just kind of stops and starts clear out through the Valley.

Boyer: Is that the street he used to live on?

La Maida: Yes, he lived.. he built a large house on Corkhill Street back in the, oh in the rather early 20s. And then he later sold that and moved back to the place on Rancho on Riverside Dr. and then in latter year when he retired, he built a smaller house again on Corkhill Street.

Dodson: We found that the street names in the Valley are very interesting and sooner or later we would get out a little publication on this street names, showing who they were name for and how they happen to get those names. So this tells us the story on one more of them that we didn't know before. We're very glad to get that.

Boyer: The house is still standing there right? That's the one that was written up in the paper?

La Miada: Right.

Dodson: Could you give us the number of that house? Do you recall what it is?

La Maida: Benese in my bedroom over by the cedar chest. I don't know...or not.

Boyer: when was it.. maybe the twenty.

La Maida: Yes. And he imported stained glass from Italy and tiles and, oh God, the doors were fantastic. Great big round solid doors that were old. That happened .. of course

the hardware on the door is..

Boyer: Somebody's remodeling it. I think they don't clear out.

La Maida: They're kind off.. I 've been back there a few times over the years and it's nothing like the original.

Dodson: That 's too bad. We visit the Lankershim Ranch house, for instant and found it was divided in to two pieces. And part of it moved away.

La Maida: I don't have the actual address on this. However I can refer you to couple of my aunts who will be able to.

Dodson: Now, we're very interested in these houses that...[?]

La Maida: This is just last August.

Dodson: Were you born in the Valley yourself, Mrs. Corkhill?

La Maida: I actually was born in Los Angeles but my folks were living in the Valley. So the hospital was in LA but it was in Canoga Park where my family were living.

Dodson: I think we can call you native daughter of the Valley.

La Maida: Right, I hope so. I hope so.

Dodson: It just a technicality. We're interested in some of your recollections of the Valley. For instance, when you went to school here then. Do you remember what elementary school you attended, the names of any of your teachers.

La Maida: Well, yes I went to Wennetka Elementary School. That was in the Canoga Park area. I remember Ms. Evens, my kindergarten teacher. I remember Mrs. Poetry [?], my first grade teacher. And let's see, actually she was... no I got mix up on that... Then my family moved to Sepulveda where we had a house that was in a walnut orchard. We have about 10 acres there. And I went to Sepulveda Elementary School. My fifth grade teacher was Mrs. Holliway [?] then all a certain Mrs. Canada[?] and Mrs. Monroe[?].

Dodson: Were you a teacher yourself?

La Maida: Yes, I am.. actually I am still a teacher. I am on leave right now. I am a teacher at Reseda High School.

Dodson: I was going... If you have been an elementary teacher, I

would ask you to compare your teaching with what you remember as being a student. But there wouldn't be a real comparison there. But on the high school level, do you see much difference the way it was when you went to high school yourself and the way you teach it now?

La Maida: I think the main difference is in the courses that are now offered in high school than the courses were offered then. Many more electives, more diversified, kinds of things for the kids.

Dodson: Can you tell us a little bit about that diversification so we can compare the changes in education?

La Maida: Well, I think that there is a little trying to provide, not only for the academic student but also for the vocational minded student. But not just that but even with the academic students, there are many, many more courses that were not offered before in the area of science, oceanography, including all the social studies, according to the current world problems, social, economic problems.

Dodson: Did you say that the current high school student is getting a better education now than 1977 then when you were in high school?

La Maida: I can't really say that. Ha....

Dodson: I think the future might be interested in this.

Boyer: I still think that people haven't really changed that much. The things around us are changing but a person who has desires and goals in whatever field or area if they're interested, maybe the course wasn't offered in high school or college. But if they have interest in certain area, they will strive to get more knowledge.

Dodson: Sometime we hear a great deal about the relaxing of standards. I notice the University of California is complaining because their freshmen don't seem to know how to read and write. Do you feel we have relaxed standards of grading and that sort of thing now?

La Maida: Yes, I really do feel that there has been a lack in not quiteness stress really on the basics. Of course I think this started many years ago. Probably 25 years ago that they started being a relaxing of the methods of teaching to try to get more of the oh, how to say, the root process kind of techniques of teaching that let ask the child of what he wants to know rather than saying," I think you should be learning these things." And I think

maybe we realizing that then when the students get into high school, they didn't really have the basics. Then when they got to college, they had difficulty in passing the entrance exams. And now maybe we have to really go back and start to see how we can improve our reading and.. no, ABCs again.

Dodson: Of course, when I was in high school, one of my favorite courses was Latin. In fact, I have taught Latin just for the fun of it. Was that true in your high school? Were they teaching Latin at that time when you went to school?

La Maida: There was one class in Latin.

Dodson: And I would imagine now there is none, it's that right?

La Maida: Right, right. Zero.

Dodson: Of course form my point of view that's a lost. I don't know how you feel about it?

La Maida: I think yes. I do now. I didn't when I was in high school, I didn't really think about it. But now, you think back and thinking about how many things are derived from the Latin words and everything that would be a value really to know Latin.

Dodson: Incidentally we haven't ask you what it is that you taught? I think we are interested in knowing that.

La Maida: O.K. I taught physical education.

Dodson: I see, that was not my strongest point. Ha.. I am afraid that our teams would all of lost if I have been on them. But they took no changes I think. Another thing that I would like to ask you about was the differences in discipline now and when you were in high school yourself. Do you see some changes there?

La Maida: Well, this depend I think so much... so much on the individual teacher. And even maybe the adminitration of the school. Probably .. probably the students were tended to be more respectful and maybe not as many discipline problems when I went to school as.... But, I don't know, one of my teacher want to comment here.

Dodson: Yes, it all right to me.

Corkhill: I just want to go back after elementary and junior high. She went to Van Nuys High School and I was a teacher there so I've known her as a kid and see her grow up. I would say they are more respectful. They didn't express

themselves as well as youngsters do now. But I think there is a lack of respect now among the students. They have the feeling I know more than you do. And I don't know what else to say other than I think if the teacher said to Connie do some thing, she will do it and now you are not sure whether they will or won't. I just didn't... I retired two years ago. But that's all I can say, I think they have less respectful but I think they are smarter. You know what I mean. They are more alert of what's going on.

Dodson: Do you feel they are more conscious of national and international questions. That sort of thing they used to be. Were you at Van Nuys High during the period when we were getting some of the disorder over Viet Nam or did you get any of that in high school?

CorKhill: Yes, we did. In fact, I can go back to when we took the Japanese into the concentration camp.

Dodson: Fine, I very much like to hear about that.

Corkhill: Rather orderly in our school and just when they came back, they sort of felt like they felt that they were animals rather people. And we got a feeling for those people. We never have any trouble with them. But that was the most dramatic part of my teaching was during that period. Now they are going into the desegregation and the influx of the blacks and now we're getting into the feeling of the Chicano and the Black fighting each other against the white. And this is becoming quite a problem.

Dodson: Is that a sort of three ways tension among the three groups? Has that resulted, in your knowledge any unpleasant incidents at Van Nuys High?

Corkhill: Yes, there were couple of knifings I believe just last year and some guns pulled and the place was surrounding by officers and school dismissed. And even to this point, the blacks that bus in get off at one particular area. The white buses come in another place. When they go to get out of the bus, they come in two different ways. Yet, they ask them to mingle all day. And there is quite a bit attention.

Dodson: So you'd say there isn't complete integration in practice no matter what the theory is. Do you have a personal opinion on busing? you don't have to answer that if you feel it's too controversial, of course.

Corkhill: Not having any children of my own, I really don't have any feeling. I mean if they can move their teachers all

over the city, I guess they could move the students all over the city. I am in the middle of a fence on that one.

Dodson: Suppose that you were still teaching and found that you were about to be reassigned. How would you feel about that?

Corkhill: I wouldn't like it. And I would go back to the fact that I have established a home here and this is our area and I wouldn't like to drive thirty miles. Otherwise, I have not feeling about teaching blacks, white or anything like that.

Dodson: It would be the matter of inconvenience of the ..of them transportation. Ms. La Maida, do you feel the same way about that?

La Maida: Pretty much so. One of the things on .. of the students that we have bussed in this school. I don't feel that they are the majority,... are really doing any better in our school than they would be doing in the school in their own area. Many, many, I won't say all, but many of them feel that " O.K. look at me, I've been bussed in, I have a few special privileges and don't be rough on me. If you're rough on me, you're being prejudiced."...? I don't mean all but many of them show that attitude.

Dodson: Then this would put you in a disadvantage as teacher, the attitude that it would be showing prejudice on your part if you seem to be disciplining or holding people so strict.

La Maida: Right.

Corkhill: Accountability.

Dodson: I see. If you had children of your own at the age to be bussed, how would you feel? Do you think about having them bussed? or do you care to answer this. Don't answer anything that you feel is too controversial. That's understood.

La Maida: No, I don't believe I would like my children bussed.

Dodson: We talked to one instructor who said that she wouldn't object to it as I recalled on the high school level but where small children were involved, she would take a different attitude.

La Maida: I think that there is a great deal to be said about that. And some of them be the length of time of bussing. You

know, the .. that the children have.. young children have to be on the bus. And I notice there are so much to say about when children began to react to integration and other ethnic groups and so on. That it is at the early age.. from that stand point, the group shouldn't be begun earlier. I would like digress back a little bit that my own early days of elementary school. We lived in an area where there was many different nationalities. And many of my close friends, where I had two Chinese twins that were close friends, A Mexican /American girl, a Polish girl. And that we kind of went around in the group together. And we didn't think about race or anything at that point. That this evidently, our family didn't mention it etheir to us. It's only latter we have known. Ye, we just have fun together, we were all kids, just playing.

Dodson: You feel then as far as the student is concerned, although he could get as good education in his own area as he 's getting here.

La Maida: He could. Now the only thing that I see on that is because of the environmental conditions that they feel that kind of down .. family influence..family background that " O.K., I am kind of stuck in this area. I don't have the opportunity." However, if basically I think the teachers are just as well qualified in that area. They went through college, gotten their degree. They should be qualified in this school as in that school. And that you're still see for yourself now they are transferring teachers around the last either of years so try to get a better balance of the faculty. And but you still hear the same thing of arguments. " O.K. if the teacher from the West Valley goes to Central City, O.K. then those kids in central city should be getting as good education as the West Valley kids that have had Central City teachers transferred out to them. This teaching wise, but you still get the environmental factor that kind of hard to measure.

Dodson: Yes, I can see how that would be. You find that there is a difference between the high school student of your day, when you were student and the high school student now in regard to such thing as narcotics?

La Maida: Very definitely. I mean you only kink of heard about narcotics as something you learned about in your science class or health class. Occasionally, you might hear somebody with marijuana but there was... but I don't think I recalled knowing anyone... having a friend tell me or as if anyone's smoking marijuana. Now, it's pretty common that oh I would say 75 to 80 percent of the kids

have at least... at least tried marijuana.

Dodson: Did you have any problems with the students are using hard drug in your school?

La Maida: Yes. In fact unfortunately I had an experience that I had to call the administrator for seeing either of my students under the influence which is it kind of difficult thing to do. But to the best help the students, you have to see that they are taken care of.

Corkhill: May I intercept there. I had two experiences. One with LSD and if I mention the man, you would know him. It's his daughter and to this day, she is not right. But she was...went on the trip on LSD and she striped her clothes and started screaming and I've never seen anything like it. And she is not right yet. I had one other girl, that ended up in Camarillo form LSD. And those are experiences we had to handle right then and there. So, yes we saw a lot of them.

Dodson: Of course, this is one difference, one drastic difference between the schooling now and the schooling in the early days of the Valley because all of the people who went to school themselves, say 20 to 30 years ago would report there were no such thing as narcotics. They not only used it themselves, they didn't even know of anybody who ever used it. So that would be a change.

Corkhill: That's a great difference. In that case.. It's just sad to see these kids to this.

Dodson: You mentioned a while ago the point that when you asked a student to do something, you weren't always sure that nowadays that they would do it. How did you handle a case of that kind?

Corkhill: Well, I must admit that I didn't get into what's happening now. I didn't have very many problems. In our particular field, and according to my philosophy, we had a different way of handling kids than some teachers. We never yelled at them. We appealed to them. Now, as I understand it now, if you ask somebody to do something, I will say.. I go back to some of the minorities,"Not gonna do that. You can't tell me what to do." The attitude now is" I don't do it if you don't want to, but don't come back to class." So what you are doing? You're driving them away from what you're supposed to be doing. Apparently, that's the way they are being handled now. I can't say I've ever had a student say, " I won't." They might "I rather not." Ha.... or " I don't see why I should." all right then I take time to tell them why

why they should. Now, Connie is just on leave this semester, so she is much more capable answering that question than I am because two years make a lot of difference nowadays. Ha...

Dodson: Well, maybe you can take over on that question then and give us the very latest.

La Maida: Well, actually my own.. experiences, I hadn't have any discipline problems.

Dodson: You had no open mutiny then.

La Maida: No, no. Really none, none what so ever. In fact it always has been some kind of a challenge to me to dealt with some of the girls that had been harder to dealt with, to try to do approach them in a level of conversation, talking. And for this I like to say that actually I enjoy teaching..(change to side two of tape one)

Dodson: You were telling us that you're enjoy teaching more in the last ten years than previously.

La Maida: Yes, because I feel as a whole, students are more aware of what's going on around them. You can talk with them more on the adult basis. And can deal to their reasoning power and they can think of a teacher as a human being and not as that strange person who had the authority. It is more on one to one basis. Because I think I enjoy talking to a small group of kids when you can get them involve in a conversation. You can get their thoughts and then they might think my thoughts are a little old-fashioned. But you can kind of get in a little bit with them. At least get them thinking about things of that nature.

Dodson: Can you make any contrast between the sort of recreation that exit for teenagers now and then when you were in high school? Are there any differences that you are awared of yourself?

La Maida: For that I want to go back a little farther than my own. To back when my father was courting my mother and what they did in those time...

Dodson: We'll be delighted to hear about that.

La Maida: O.K. oh they would go to the show you know so on. Local places that where the young folks went was Lankershim Blvd. And I am not sure whether it was the Odd Fellows or an Elks Club. But it was an upstairs hall where all

the youngsters are gather for dancing each night. And that's seem to be the regular thing to do. And then few years later on that there is a Cave on Ventura Blvd. and they specialized in B.B.Q. sandwiches and hot chocolate. And this was the thing to do after a date with drop in the Cave. This was for the North Hollywood area. This was one of the things that they did a lot.

Dodson: Do you know about where the Cave would be located?

La Maida: I am not positive but it seems to me that it would be located east of Coldwater. I.. as a little cave, I kind of think I recall it when we go over Cahuenga Pass, my folks would point out the Cave. But I can't be positive.

Dodson: Can you tell us anything else that you know about your father and mother to the time that they were courting? the sort of things they did?

La Maida: Ah, It would mainly dancing, going to shows and get small get togethers with their friends. But I think it was pretty much on the strict basis that my mother had to be home by a certain time and even my father had stipulations on him because borrow a car and my mother lived in Hollywood. And so to borrow the car you know go to go to Hollywood.

Dodson: That was a quite a trip at the time I imagine?

La Maida: Certainly..certainly was. This was going over the old Cahuenga Pass. One of the things that my mother was telling me was that this is what they were teased about as a test of a real good car that you can go over Cahuenga Pass in high gear. Ha.. that was how you tested your car.

Dodson: Do you remember what kind of a car they had when you were a child?

La Maida: O.K. one of the first cars that they had. They had a Model T Pickup when they first got married. And to convert that into to be used as the family car, my father equipped some kind of a box, a kind of chair everything so that they would be ready for four people so they fit to be in there. Then they went into a old Stubaker.

Dodson: Incidentally, when we were asking you what were raised on the farm, you mentioned walnuts. I can't resist asking you whether you've ever heard of pickle walnuts?

La Maida: No, I haven't.

Dodson: Most people think that was a joke but it actually isn't.
Interview with Miss Constance La Maida

I find out about them when interviewing Mr. Avila of the Lankershim Ranch. One of the Lankershims used to pickle walnuts. I wonder if he was the only person ever did it.

La Maida: I don't know. That would be easy because now I would have to ask my mother if she recalls that.

Dodson: I may have been just an idea of his. I don't know but I am curious to find out whethere it was any kind of a comment delicacy or not. Apparently, the walnut is picked when it's green. And the test is when you can stick a pin through it, then it's ripe for pickling at that particular point. So one of the Lankershim used to pickle walnuts.

La Maida: Ha... that sound...

Dodson: Appearantly, it wasn't a widespread delicacy here in the Valley because most people haven't heard about doing it any way. Can you tell us anything about the religious life here in the Valley as your grandfather had told you about it or your father has? What it was like when they first came out

La Maida: Not really. I don't know what it was like in the..you know when they first came out. I just recall in .. Canoga Park. I know my mother took us to a small church up on the Winneska. It was very close to the elementary school. And she took us to Sunday school there. Of course by the time we moved to Van Nuys, there were many churches around that I attended several different.. different churches. I attended the Methodist Church. It now has it big new one. I attended the Episcopal Church in Van Nuys. But as far as really begin to give it that much, I really I don't know what the early...

Corkhill: Your grandfather was a Catholic. And he raised his family as Catholic. How old is your father?

La Maida: Well, O.K. my father was not a church going man; however, he work when he was an Catholic. But not a recognized Catholic. My aunts and uncle are all Catholic. However, my father is not Catholic. My mother is a Protestant so when he married, he agreed [sp?] to marry under a Protestant minister. However, when my grandfather passed away at '68 he was 85,86. He did have his service at the San Fernado Mission and he was buried in a Catholic cemetery up there.... It was very, very nice.

Dodson: Yes, yes, we've been up there. That's a very nice place, very, very attractive well kept up, that sort of thing. We asked you a little about the depression a few minutes ago. Do you have any recollections of the effect on the Valley? Generally, we asked about it in relation to your own family. Have you had any traditions come down in the family or anecdotes you've heard about it, the general effects on the Valley? I am assuming that you don't remember it yourself.

La Maida: Well, this time I remember a few things about it. I can remember back in the day when you had the milkman that delivered milk and the breadman. We used to have Mr. Martinez to deliver nice French bread to us. But on a few occasions, my mother might have to go to my brother and my piggy bank to pay either the breadman or the milkman just because money was pretty tight. And other things just... so that the clothes my mother used to make quite a few clothes, you know, so it save on expenses that way. I get everything but just thing that observe around the Valley. It just the way that... woman might do their washing out under the big pepper trees or something or galvanized tubs there, washboards or maybe there might be a wood fire heating the water, kind of thing.

Dodson: Was you teaching at the time of the Second World War when it began in 1941?

La Maida: No, no. I was not...I was still.

Corkhill: You were born in '32.

La Maida: Yes, I was still.. I was still pretty young.

Boyer: You mentioned before the relocation Japanese. Do you remember anything about that or maybe,...

La Maida: Oh, yes. there is one family that I remembered in perticular. In fact, he was one of the man that my father did contacted with his son. And I know we feel very bad because they have to go to the relocation. What is it? Oh, a beautiful family . Oh, I think, I think ..just prior to the war. They had gone back to Japan and bought back, bought back my mother just a beautiful, beautiful, huge Japanese tray, Comona hand made. And when they rellocated. In fact, I still have a chair that one of the Knockolama boys gave it, something that he had made. He was a high school boy himself. And that my father would you like to have this. And it seems ashame because they were just like any other American family.

Dodson: So there you would say there was really no tension then between the persons of Japanese decent and the others in the Valley.

La Maida: Not, not. I can only say from the personal standpoint. But I would think of the people that had been working with the Japanese, particulaly in the farming area , that that they felt very bad about it, the relocation center. [sp?]

Dodson: Do you recall anything about that presumed air raid we had over Los Angeles? The one time that a plane presumably flew over?

La Maida: I really, I don't recall , even through I know my father was an air raid warden and I can remember him having to take his students, you know, out that don't remember the end of that.

Dodson: I see. Well, I think is we have one case where an unidentified air plane flew over the city and there still have an argument whethere we had an air raid or not. The Japanese claimed that they never had any time had any planes close to Los Angeles. Now one subject that I am sure you remember would be the earthquake of 1971. How did that strike you? Was your house dammaged in any way?

La Maida: Just a few cracks here and there but no real dammage.

Dodson: I see. Were you living in the house we're in now?

La Maida: Right.

Dodson: See, this is 6651 Norwich Street, isn't it?

La Maida: Uh hu.

Dodson: I imagine then from the interviews we had that the full force of the quake was not felt this far south. So you did not suffer in any way from it.

La Maida: No except being just scared ... Ha.... Let's say we felt it. Everything was just.....

Corkhill: The swimming pool next door overflowed and ran through our garage. That was about the extent of the dammage. We had a few cracks but we had two little dogs and Connie had one of the dogs in her bedroom. And I had the other one in my bedroom. She ran out and said " Hey, we're having an earthquake" and I said " where is the dog?" She goes back and gets the dog.

Interview with Miss Constance La Maida

La Maida: And what I had done is this, the little dog was just a little tea cup twin poodle, no bigger than this. And when I drawn the covers back, I cover up the dog. And I had to.. Ha.. uncramble below the cover to find the little dog.

Corkhill: My first reaction was we got to get up and go to school. We were hurrying around here trying to dress and our electricity was off. And we thought we had to go to school. We didn't go to school for several days, you know. Ha...

Dodson: Oh, I didn't know about that. Was school suspended? Van Nuys High School?

Corkhill: Yes, it did. Only for two days.

Dodson: Was the school dammaged enough and that was necessary.

Corkhill: Yes, the science building was dammaged. The parts of it had to be condense. But it wasn't that. It just a bit of the after shot and maybe just in case it dangerous. And then teachers getting to work with another problem.

La Maida: Quite a few of the teachers lived in the area where there was extensive dammage. So it would have been very difficult trying in that day to bring in substitutes knowing who you could get and of course it just a panic feeling, for say.

Dosdon: You did have one building that was condemned as the result of this?

Corkhill: It was an old building and it was condemned as the result of the earthquake.

Dodson: It wasn't much dammage than I take on other building, other than the one you're speaking now.

Corkhill: Which I think it would fall down eventually any way. It was that old you know. Ha...better to rebuild.

Dodson: We have heard quite a few earthquakes show us most further north but generally speaking, people in this area and the certain parts of the Valley don't report to us any particular dammage. But they... one result of that earthquake that it make you nervous about the one that we are told is comming up?

La Maida: Yes, that's maybe. Can't really think about it that much because if you worry about everything, you would be a

nervous, panic all the time. No I mean if you sat and think, oh my God you know, what would I do and depend on where I am, how would I react.

Dodson: Now, I notice the Valley News is running a series of articles on what to do on that earthquake. Have you been reading those?

La Maida: Just on and off.

Dodson: We haven't found in our interviews that most people are very conscious of the problem. They know that the geologist tells us that a large quake is comming but we haven't been able to find very much real concern about it. I suppose it something you can't get very excited about until it actually hits. Do you have any other recollection of something important in the history of the Valley such as the earthquakes, or the coming of the war or any of that sort of thing that like to tell us about? Something that make the impression on you at the time?

La Maida: Well, this is not nec.... the first place had been an impression on me other having it pointed out to me and this is the water that coming in to the Valley from the Ovens Valley. Actually this thing is very important to the farmer, the water. So it was a little kid, this was. ... you know, " Look, look at that water that's coming down" it was pointed out to me. And of course I think of all the flood control development happend, the building of the Sepulveda Dam, I think this would make such a tremendous change in the Valley. I can remember back in the flood in the 30s that as a young child this is kind of a scary experience to see the bridges flooded out and the water very, very high.

Dodson: This is in line with what a mumber of people told us. They think that the floods were much more important than the earthquakes as far as the history of the Valley was concerned, as far as disaster was concerned. And I think that there was one very serious one, the latter part of the 30s.

La Maida: I think it was 37 or 38.

Dodson: Do you recall that at all?

La Maida: Ya, in fact I can remember.. I can remember dreaming at you know, afterwards because I've seen where the bridge had collapsed and the water were... extremely, extremely high and I have vision of falling down into the torrent of water. Ha...

Boyer: Did it dammage any of your father's crops?

La Maida: Oh, ya. Because I mean there was certain fields that there was just be you know, you know like ravines of water that would....

Dodson: As the tour of gullies in the field, is that right?

La Maida: Ah ha, right.

Dodson: Was the dammage expensive enough then. It took him a while to get the field back into cultivation?

La Maida: Oh, yes. I mean there would be, you know, two big parts of crops that would be.. would have been lost. And usually what you do in that case depending on the..how when you planted and so on but if you ... if you're planting..[?].. you just go ahead and.. save what you had.. what was there and then with the water ruin that was a lot. And you just hope that next year, you weren't going to have the same problem again.

Dodson: What do you regard as the greatest change in the Valley within your own lifetime?

La Maida: The building..just all the shopping, all the houses...freeways.. I mean just plain growth and development.

Boyer: All the land that your grandfather and your father had at least before the war,..[?].. there are homes there now right?

La Maida: right. Ha I mean you drive down Chandler and Riverside Dr., and of those streets, there were peach orchards and come out to the West Valley around San Fernando that had orange grove. And of course if you went out from Van Nuys out to Canoga Park and they had open field of all kinds of produce selling, all development now. Ha..

Dodson: One thing that you probably conscious of is the change in fashions. I can imagine that your students don't dress in high school or in Canoga Park as you did. Isn't that true?

La Maida: Oh,ya. Ha.. in a way.

Dodson: Would you say that the change had been for the better or for the worse?

La Maida: For the worse. Sometime I can't believe. Ha... thing now.

Corkhill: On that subject, going back when we used to go to work. We dress our best mid-suit [sp?], put on your girdle[?], put on your hose, [?] every thing. Of course I driving only six blocks to go to work, you see, all dress up, to driving only five miles. Get there take your clothes off, and put your gym clothes on. And we spent thousand of dollars on clothes and now you know, you buy a pair of jean and a sweater and you are in, you know, that's all there is to it. Ha...

Dodson: Of course, the teachers can't get away with it, can't they?

Corkhill: Well they get away with quite a bit. Yes. They wear the pants suit now and like in our profession they wear a warm up suit, you know. But in our clothing bill, nothing like it was a few years ago.

Dodson: I shouldn't have said that about the teachers not getting away with it because we have some that I think a little difficult for the outsider to distinguish between the teachers and the students. Do you think, then they don't look at neat as they used to when you were a student yourself?

La Maida: Definitely not as teenager.

Dodson: Paula, do you care to comment on that.

Boyer: I just thinking of a teenager. I has a very nominative, innisitive .. a teacher. I was there working for She looks.. she was very young you know. But she has... she is young, not that she supposed to look different.. But she looked young... long hair. She's running around in some kind of jeans and tank top. You don't even know if she.... ha... " Who is she". So often somebody said " don't you have to sign up for.. you know, on the sheet" Ha.... look a lot like a student [sp?].

Dodson: What really, Paula when I asked you about that, I am going to see if you were going to come to the defense of the modern student?

Paula: No, not really. I think that the way I dress is the way I like to dress. I can't wear it to school[sp?]. Ha..

La Maida: I believe you.

Paula: But on a college level, they dress different those. But I was mention the kind of clothes that I see kids come to school with, especially in junior high.... A lot different.. I know they relax the rule a year after I

lelf school. A year after I graduated from high school. They dropped the rule out. Girls can wear slacks and guys can wear the hair longer....

Dodson: Dress code

Paula: Dress code, yes. They disappeared after I lelf. Ha...

Dodson: Until further recently, all the girls at the college wore dresses. Now, that is no longer in effect. Was that the case in high school also until recently?

La Maida: Oh,yes. Definitely. I mean, a dress then there is a time when they have to be at certain length. But you know, sometime girls could be send to the vice principle office to have the skirt length measured and if it wasn't right then she should be send home or mother had to bring something else to school.

Dodson: Do most of them wear jeans now, would you say?

La Maida: Yes, Usually.

Paula: Do you think it makes any difference in education I mean does that relax some more? You said maybe there is quite a bit of the lack of respect, do you think?

Dodson: That would be interesting. Whether any correlation between the informal dress and informal attitudes. Do you think there is possibly a correlation?

La Maida: I think possibly. I really don't know. I think the change over when they first started being very informal. I think there was probably a very more relaxed attitude in the learning situation. But probably this system has going on for several years now. And I am going to say maybe it kind of leveled off that they don't think about. We just accepted that we wear jeans and a T-shirt or what ever. And that they will go about the learning and not really think about it. "Hey, look what we get to wear to school now!".

Dodson: Is there any outfit that they do wear that does get them into trouble where the administration feels they have gone too far or is anything.. does anything go at the present time?

La Maida: Try to get them to wear shoes. Some of them will try to go bear foot. Now this, you try to persuade them to wear shoes. A blouse that is just absolutely too revealing they will try to do something.. something about it. But most of the time they can.. they can wear some of the

halter type top, the cross top with the bare midriff, you see... actually .. which none of my business. This should have been a complete no ... no.

Dodson: How do you feel about the morality among the students now as contrasted with morality in your day? Do you notice the change here?

La Maida: Yes, I think I do. Some of it however could be that's just more...and what I am talking about is the lowering on moral standard. However it could be that it's just more talked about, more open about morals today than last [sp?] few years. In the particular group that I was in school with, I felt that we had high moral standards as compared to what I am seeing.

Dodson: Now you mentioned I think before that you find the students are more interested on political matters now than in the past. You feel that they get very much excited about politics that they really take them seriously now in contrast to the students of the past?

La Maida: I would .. I would say so. Not 100% nationally across the board but percentage- wise I would say it would be greatly increase.

Dodson: So on the ground of awareness as you mentioned before you give the higher grade to our present students. I think that is probably true. From my own experiences with them I think their tastes of interest have changed so much in that respect. Do you have any problems with the vandalism in your school?

La Maida: Yes, nothing compared to what you find in South and Central Los Angeles. But we had several robberies, break in our business office and student store, breaking into our band room, taking musical instruments and then of course you find just the kind of thing that writing all over everything and just the malicious things that aren't.....maybe we're stealing but just damaging properties.

Dodson: Would you say that there is more of that now than when you were in high school?

La Maida: Yes.

Dodson: Do you have any personal explanations for why that might be true?

La Maida: Well, some of it is racial unrest, I believe. Some of it could be a kind of carryover..not thinking about it..

carryover from looking at the college students set back a years ago when there was rioting kind of things. This is the way to express ourselves as beneath it's bringing in the drugs things that I think probably.....

Dodson: Have there been any cases of assaults on teachers in your school that you know of? We read that they have occured in other schools, in other places.

La Maida: Yes but there have been nothing as serious as you know as stabbing and so forth but there have been, you know, punches, thrown by some of the students. But I wouldn't say as serious as in some of the schools.

Dodson: I imagine that the future would be interested in knowing what happen to the people that throw the punches. What source of disciplinary action is taking in a case of that?

La Maida: Ah, depend again on the situation, I think suspension from school is usually, usually the case. If the student is on permit and there had been other problems then the permit may be cancelled. Parent conferences called for. If there're any weapons involved this then can become a police matter if the report is filed.

Dodson: Of course, as you say, I imagine you are in an area where that doesn't occur with the frequency that might in some other places.

La Maida: No, actually. As I say I am at Reseda High School and it really is what I would say one of the better schools as far as being free of problems.

Dodson: What source of situation do you have at Reseda High School as far as integration is concerned? Do you have many ethnic groups in Reseda High?

La Maida: Yes, we have the black enrollment. Most of these students are bused.. bused in. We have local Mexican-American students that live in the area. Plus the one that are bused in from the South Los Angeles. We have Oriental students. Just a year ago, we have a fair number of the Vietnamese students that came into our school.

Dodson: Is the Anglo group, the predominant group?

La Maida: Yes, it is.

Dodson: Is it true at Van Nuys High that the Anglo group is still the largest numerically, to your knowledge?

Corkhill: Usually very close. I mean we're reading just the other day that the Anglo group now became the minority group. As I would say because of the bussing in here and the lowering of enrollment and a large Chicano Population. It would be very close to what we are. If the Anglo are the majority as thinking [sp?], almost 50/50.

Dodson: I see. Are the three groups fairly evenly devided numerically then?

Corkhill: I see the largest group probably are the Mexican-American, wouldn't you?

La Maida: Now, you probably still have more of the Anglo...but the..

Corkhill: But the Anglo Mexican, American black.

Dodson: I see. I am a little surprise because I thought probably most of the Mexican-American group would go to San Fernando High.

Corkhill: Well no, because you get just a little picture from the party . Quite of the area there that most Mexican-American. And we always have a large Mexican-American population.

Dodson: Is that right? I didn't know just what the racial composition of Van Nuys High was? But I...

Corkhill: I don't know about it now, either, but I know at one time, well, we almost fill 95% Anglo. But not from what I believe that probably the only information now because having been on it for a couple of years.

Dodson: I see. Do you in your recollection have there been many tensions in the Valley between the minority groups? Or do you think that the Valley has been fairly free of that sort of thing?

La Maida: Relatively free. There had been back in the.. oh I guest, in the 40's a certain conflict between the ...between the San Fernando Mexican-American and the Van Nuys Mexican (American) because they had their clubs, their gangs, what ever you want to call them. And this would occure primarily oh say football game, they say they had their club jackets and sometime the two groups decided to have a little confrontcetation. But nothing that I would say really, really serious.

Dodson: It was really then more of confrontation between groups of the same ethnic background than between groups

with the different ethnic background.

La Maida: Right, I feel that, I do feel that in the early days of the Valley that some of the Mexican people have some problem because of their racial group and again this is just done as a personal basic. I know my father helped many of his workers that would say get pick up by the police and they kind of felt they were being put on for a little bit. And sometime my father kind of agree because he knew some of the boys that work for him pretty well. So he goes down bail them out.

Corkhill: They get a little drunk on the Saturday night and they get thrown in the jail, you know and the Anglo went crazy you see.

La Maida: Just because after they kind of....they stayed in their group and you know they had a few drinks then probably a little noisy. But they simply didn't do anything other than a bunch of young Anglo guys [drinking sp?].

Dodson: Ah ha. So it might have been a little discrimination in that way.

La Maida: Ah ha.

Corkhill: And a little lack of communication I would say too, you see 'cause the Mexican, they wouldn't.. they speak Spanish among themselve. It wouldn't convey to the officer what they said. They called Dr. ... and he spoke the most beautifull Spanish I ever heard. And you talk to the cops and to the guys. And every thing is very easy.

Dodson: That raised another question that I like to ask about. Did you have or do you have any bilingual trouble at Van Nuys high? Do you get students who do not have a good commend of English?

Corkhill: you can answer this better than I can because they have more in your group [sp?].

La Maida: O.K., we have ESL.. quite a large ESL program at our school. And we have... well at first we have primarily just the Spanish speaking form Mexico and South America but then with the Vietnamese're coming in. So many, many students that don't.. when they come to school many of them don't speak any English at all.

Dodson: What in the world do you do with that student? I am anxious to know.

La Maida: O.K. now with the.. with the Spanish speaking kids, you grab on to some of the Spanish kids that you know that are willing and you have to be carefull again because some aren't willing to dealt with the one coming in form Mexico.. local, they might not want to dealt with person from Mexico.

Dodson: Is that right? Can you give us an reason for that? How they would be?

La Maida: It has to be with, well many of the group that they.. they called themself now Chicano. They resent.. many of them resent any tie with the American but they feel that the native, the Mexico, are now coming up and intruding on their.. on their rights. And that they are great works claim to establish ourselve as they're the black, making their self-known. And so they resent.. this was kind of come up and they are.... great work claim are establish ourselves are as say the black are making themselves known to drive on our shirt tail while we are making our progress.

Corkhill: Fight in the navy against the outsider you see...

Dodson: So you try to get a student then who would act as a translator in the case of that kind?

La Maida: Then the same right go with the Vietnamese. They are just darling to work with. But usually you get one... one that would pick up English a little bit. Maybe have known some or pick it up a little bit faster. So you communicate with her through them dealt with the others, once that aren't or many of them afraid or try to communicate to. But then you gradually try to talk with a few of them in a group. They try it so not in front of your class to make them embarress. But then you just gradually try to bring them out and get them to say a few words. That's the Vietnamese. Now with the ..many of the.. again with your Spanish speaking, they know a few more words then they talk a little bit faster. And but also then, I try to dealt with the ESL teachers, too. For days there is any problem in any particular student or students. Now for we communicate back and forth through the ESL teacher or if there is any kind of written information, I'd get a translation from the teacher to give to the student.

Dodson: Now, of course my subject is history. And I would think the history instructor would be just completely lost with those people.

La Maida: No, the way the program is handled is that when the

student first come in, pretty much the only program out of that whole ESL program is their physical education class. And then.. and so the basic learning English reading, math, this is all done through the ESL program within itself.

Dodson: They put in special classes right?

La Maida: Right.

La Maida: And then the graduate maybe given an elective class. Oh maybe an art class. The boy shop class if they seem to.. you have to be carefull because all of the safety factor on the job. And then maybe a student would find that she or he is excelling say in math then could go in one of the regular math classes. In this just a gradual transition into the regular program. And very often like if a student come in as ESL in the ten grade by senior year probably is on the regular.. regular program. It's quite fascinating, really.

Dodson: Now, I imagine this would be the decided difference between the high school as you know and the high school that you went to. There were no such program as I imagined when you were a student, was it?

La Maida: No, none at all. In fact I remember I don't remember whether Bernice remembers this, but we have a girl from France. Well,I was.. I was studying voice at the time and too I was studing" Carman" which I was doing both in French and in English. And so naturally I would be friend with the French girl. But we help one another. I mean I talk English to her and .... communicated with one another [sp?]. It's the best way we could.

Dodson: Do you have any Mexican-American students at that time? And did they have trouble getting along then?

La Maida: Not really, but it would pretty much a group thing. Most of the Mexican, they stayed to themselves. Some of them I think have some language problem. But not all.

Dodson: Now, can you think of something that you feel should be recorded that we haven't ask about at all as you look back on the history of the Valley and the life of your father and grandfather here? Perhaps you have some traditions or anecdotes come up in the family that you have heard, that you like to put down on tape for us?

La Maida: I don't think... I probably think of million things later but...Oh, one thing that kind of go on with the war

years, a kind of interesting thing just to observe with that we have German prisoners that worked in field and also working right along side with the Mexican nationals.

Dodson: I would be glad to hear about that. No one else had told us about that.

La Maida: O.K. My father was a person who basicly like people and he particularly got along well with the Mexican people because he spoke their language and all that... and he was very.. with the German prisoners so he would try to communicate with them. And I think remember him comming home and talking about the differences that many of the young guys were, even through they didn't like working on the fields, but they were just so glad the war was over, didn't have to worry about being killed, pretty soon we can get home to our family where I see many others were just very, very belligerent, you know. "I am working here you know, against race of Mexican over there, you know" Just a big resentment. But most.. most part they just like any young guys. They just glad the whole thing was over.

Dodson: I can see. I can imagine from their point of view, it wasn't too bad to be a prisoners of war here in the Valley.

La Maida: Right I think this is what most of them.. most of them felt.

Dodson: Did we have a prisoner of war camp here in the Valley then? I wonder where these students... rather where this prisoners came from?

La Maida: I am not positive but I seen most of that .. the land over there as the basin, was government land. I wouldn't be surprise if they didn't set up some unit right over close to the dam. I can't be possitive.

Dodson: I see. No one has bought this up before so I don't know any of the answers myself like anyone else.

Boyer: Do you think this is just a response I don't know, a special program that adapt to the government approach them or...[sp?]

La Maida: I can't. That I can't tell you either.

boyer: You can't tell that from the Valley?[sp?]

La Maida: I can give you somebody who might, again asociate with the dam and might be able to get some more information on

that.

Dodson: I imagine they were pretty happy then when the news came that the war was over? Do you remember any of them yourself?

La Maida: No, I don't. I really don't.

Dodson: Be rather interesting to get some personal recollections those that knew them. I imagine as you say some are very happy. And you probably have some that were pretty well steeped in Nazism and were belligerent.

La Maida: Right.

Dodson: Is anything else you think of that you would like to give us that we haven't bought up?

La Maida: I.. I can't really think of... I which I could think of some anecdote types they say but I just don't recall...

Corkhill: Could I interject just one thing. I've been told many time that when ever farming out here, they were harvesting the food crops. They take them to the market down town. And how many days did it have to take them? Did they have to go over the pass in the wagon? And they did it... what in one or two o'clock in the morning and maybe not getting back until the next day all by wagon. And this is fascinating to me to think over those durt roads you know and that distance.

Dodson: That was really an 24 hours trip then.

Corkhill: Oh, yes. At least, wasn't it? or more. But you know you loaded your peaches on the way you go and when you think about how quickly you can get down town now and then think what they had to go through. It've been all those dirt road around here and dust in the summer time and mud in the winter time. They really were pinoner to me. Now I like one other thing and that is her mother and father celebrate their 50th anniversary a year ago.

Dodson: Is that right? Your mother is still living, isn't she?

La Maida: My father just passed away.

Corkhill: Just passed away on the 27th of December. But he had a picture that you might show them with, mother and dad.

La Maida: There it is. This is my dad with the....

Corkhill: Corkhill. C-O-R-K-H-I-L-L.

Dodson: Maybe we better repeat that while I hole the microphone in your direction.

Corkhill: All right. My name is Bernice Corkhill. C-O-R-K-H-I-L-L.

Dodson: We very much appreciate your taking part of this interview too.

Corkhill: I enjoyed it.

Dodson: You were a teacher of Van Nuys High. Retied two years ago. I believe you told us.

Corkhill: I was there 31 years.

Dodson: Would you qualify for the pinoner in there then?

Corkhill: I was there when the time of Dona Hubbard. If you know anything about the history of Van Nuys High School.

Dodson: Only a little bit. Because you see one of your principal is one time was also the first person of our College. Vierling Kersey. Do you remember him?

Corkhill: I remember him well. He was a principal of our high school after he left the college.

Dodson: Could you tell us anything about you impression of him. It would be rather interesting to record some of them if you remember him well enough. Was he there very long?

Corkhill: Either a year or two. He wasn't there very long. He said it was an intern job. I don't know, Once he leave the college, he came to our high school. But he wasn't there long. And I felt that he felt that the job was beneath him. And that probably that why he didn't stay long.

Dodson: You see, he had been state superintendent public of instruction. Then he had been city superintendent of school. And then I think he was pres.. principal of Belmont High School. Was he not coming from Van Nuys?

Corkhill: I through he was at the college before he was...

Dodson: No, no he was first at Van Nuys High School and then he became the president of the College at the same time and then transfered to the College.

Corkhill: Oh, I see.

Dodson: The way of it. So I didn't know whether he was there long enough that you came in personal contact with him or not?

Corkhill: We came in personal contact because I was the chairman of our department and he want to move the bleacher to take part of our field. And we were arguing this point. But it happened on a vacation, he won because of nature of the rule. That is the popular of..

Dodson: Do you remember when our college was organized. We were at Van Nuys High School for two years.

Corkhill: I do. I remember Hellen Mindlin and Jeanne Pons and my staff, they all taught together and share the same field, share the same Quonset Hut that they have over there and we were pretty loaded. I mean about 46 hundred or something, very crowded but a lot of fun.

Dodson: You might be interested that our museum is in one of the bungalows that was moved from the Van Nuys High School Agriculture crop where our first college campus was located.

Corkhill: Exactly.

Dodson: It became our admistration building at the college and now is our museum. And I am sure you would not remember which one it was, probably.

Corkhill: Probably wouldn't. There are so many bungalows you know. I understand that you know Rubby Zuber [sp?]. She is retiring.

Dodson: No, I didn't know she was retiring. She is?

Corkhill: I understand she retire at the end of this year.

Dodson: Oh, I see.

Corkhill: Who else did we know down there, Cornny? Oh, Marry Ann...

Dodson: Breckell?

Corkhill: Year, Breckell [sp?].

Dodson: I don't think she was with us though when we were at the Van Nuys High School. I think she came later.

Corkhill: Oh, no. She was about your age or younger.

La Maida: She taught a year at Reseda, too just before she went to Valley.

Dodson: I see.

La Maida: I try to think of a English lady, Ingred [sp?]. Teacher that I took a class from. Broom...

Dodson: yes, I was going to surgess Dr. Bloomberg.

La Maida: Oh, I really enjoyed it.

Dodson: She was one of our orginal faculties member. Now she was at Van Nuys High school when we were there. That isn't college part of it.

Corkhill: Well, when we were there and you were there. It was so crowded. We never got beyond our department because when you cut it down that whole field with college students and high school students, there is really a problem. I never forget it.

Dodson: Is the areas that we occupied now an agricultural section as it was to begin with?

Corkhill: I try to get my idea across, what it is?

La Maida: No, the shops.

Corkhill: Oh, that where the shop are. All shop buildings and driver education and tennis courts

Dodson: Are those permance buildings now?

Corkhill: Yes. It is.

Dodson: I see. When we move there the bungalows had been set up. It is my understanding that had been an agricultural section for the conduct of some agricultural classes or something of a kind.

Corkhill: Now, the agricultural over here. section over here we have five acres over here on Vanowen. So all of that had been move over to Vanowen. And all the shops buildings put in there.

Dodson: I don't remember if you remember any of our other people or not. We.. let's see Mr. Coultas was our assistant director. Do you recall him?

Corkhill: I recalled him. I can't remember his first name right now.

Dodson: Walter. And this is Nena Royer with the first dean women. Do you recall her?

Corkhill: I do, very well. Was she from the high school?

Dodson: She had come from Belmont High School.

Corkhill: I like here very much. Oh, what the name... Grand Woodly [sp?]...

Dodson: I don't recall but I have an instuctor name Wheater [sp?]. At the moment I can't think of his first name either

La Maida: I think it was ....

Corkhill: Was it Chat or Charle?

La Maida: He was from the mathematic department

Corkhill: Yes.

Dodson: Yes.

Corkhill: He was from Van Nuys High School.

Dodson: Well, I got to ask whethere you remember me or not because I spend most of my time counseling students. Didn't get around much.

Corkhill: Your first name is what?

Dodson: James, James Dodson.

Corkhill: No, I don't

Dodson: Maybe on that noble you better stop while we are still ahead. Ha... and I do want to thank you very much for your cooperation, for your helping us out on this. It sure given us a very worth while tape, I asure you.

Dodson: You have been listening to an interview primarily with Miss Constance La Maida, a teacher at Canoga Park High School. There will be however some remarks by Miss Bernice Corkhill who retier two years ago from a teaching position at Van Nuys High School. The interview was conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson, curator of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum. And by Miss Paula Boyer, field depudy to Dr. Dodson. The date is

Febuary 2, 1977.